

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Original) A protein as set forth in (a) or (b) below:
  - (a) a protein comprising an amino acid sequence according to Seq. No. 2, 4, 6 or 8, or
  - (b) a protein comprising an amino acid sequence according to Seq. No. 2, 4, 6 or 8 with one or more amino acids deleted, replaced or added, and having adiponectin binding ability.
2. (Original) A gene encoding the proteins according to Claim 1.
3. (Original) The gene according to Claim 2, comprising DNA as set forth in (c) or (d) below:
  - (c) DNA comprising a base sequence according to Seq. No. 1, 3, 5 or 7;
  - (d) DNA which hybridizes under stringent conditions with DNA complementary to DNA comprising a base sequences according to Seq. No. 1, 3, 5 or 7, and which encodes a protein having adiponectin binding ability.
4. (Original) A recombinant vector containing the gene according to Claim 2 or 3.
5. (Original) A transformant containing the recombinant vector according to Claim 4.
6. (Canceled)
7. (Canceled)

8. (Original) A screening kit for a ligand, agonist or antagonist to an adiponectin receptor, comprising the protein according to Claim 1, the DNA according to Claim 2 or 3, and the recombinant vector according to Claim 4 or the transformant according to Claim 5.